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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,366	12/08/2003	Sami Sagol	1268-203	8244

22429 7590 05/24/2006
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EXAMINER

WILKENS, JANET MARIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3637	

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/729,366	Applicant(s) SAGOL, SAMI	
	Examiner Janet M. Wilkens	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 21-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31 and 32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 10-14, 18, 21-27, 29 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-9, 15-17 and 28 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Specification

The substitute specification filed March 6, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 10-14, 18, 21, 23, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Buckett (British patent application 2,298,782). Buckett teaches a collapsible table (Fig. 2; see attachment A) comprising: a pair of pivotable table top half-sections (1) with skirt portions which are hinged to one another at their adjacent edges along a center-line of the table and are displaceable between an open position where the half-sections are coplanar and a folded position where the half-sections overlap one another (see Figs. 2 and 5) wherein each of the half-sections is provided at an undersurface thereof with a transverse support member (see attachment A) and with a pair of longitudinal support members (see attachment A) and each of the transverse support member and longitudinal support members is pivotally displaceable with respect to the undersurface of the corresponding half-section (the transverse members by pivotal connection to the undersurface of the table top and the longitudinal members by pivotal connection to the transverse members--both pivotal motions occurring under the table top and with respect to the lower surface thereof) between an erect position and a

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collapsed position whereby displacement of the transverse support member from the erect position to the collapsed position is prevented as long as at least one of the longitudinal support members is in the erect position. The half sections are pivotally connected (at A-B) and include a central support member/transverse abutment surface. Furthermore, legs are part of the support members.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckett (British patent application 2,298,782) in view of Moncrieff (1,662,121). As stated above, the Buckett teaches the limitations of claim 1, including a table top with folding transverse support members. For claim 22, the Buckett fails to teach that the support members are snap fitted with respect to the table top so as to be maintained in the erected position. Moncrieff teaches the use of "snap fit" connectors (see Fig. 2) between members. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the table of Buckett by using alternate connection means between support members, i.e. using snap fit connectors such as is taught by Moncrieff therein instead of the hinges presently used, since these connectors are functionally

equivalent and it appears that either type of connector would work equally well between the transverse support members and table top of Buckett. The snap fit connectors would also be beneficial for assembly/disassembly purposes, i.e. would provide connectors that would allow the support members to be easily attached and unattached to the table top (without the need of tools).

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckett (British patent application 2,298,782). As stated above, the Buckett teaches the limitations of claim 1, including a table top with folding support members. For claim 24, Bucket fails to teach that the table top and support members are made of plastic. The examiner takes Official notice that plastic table tops and support members are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use any of a number of different materials for the table top and support members of Buckett, including plastic, depending on the desired need of the person constructing the table, i.e. for aesthetic reasons, economic reasons, table weight considerations, depending on the materials readily available, etc.

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckett (British patent application 2,298,782) in view of Glover et al (6,752,091). As stated above, Buckett teaches the limitations of claim 1, including a table top with folding half sections. For claims 25 and 26, Buckett fails to teach a retractable handle on at least one of the half sections. Glover teaches the use of a retractable handle (230) on a half section portion of a folding table. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the table top of Buckett by

adding a retractable handle thereon (assembly including a handle portion, a pivot rod attached to a bottom outside edge of the table and recesses in the skirt), such as is taught by Glover, to provide a means to help transport the folded or unfolded table from one location to another.

Claims 25, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckett (British patent application 2,298,782) in view of Pinch (6,058,853). As stated above, Buckett teaches the limitations of claim 1, including a table top with folding half sections. For claims 25 and 27, Buckett fails to teach a recessed handle on at least one of the half sections. Pinch teaches the use of a recessed handle (190) on half section portions of a folding table. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the table top of Buckett by adding recessed handles on one or both of the table top half portions (for example on the skirt portions thereof), such as is taught by Pinch, to provide a means to help transport the unfolded or folded table from one location to another.

For claim 29, Buckett fails to teach a lock arrangement for the folded half sections. Pinch also teaches the use of a lock arrangement (200/210, 198/ 196) between half section portions of a folding table. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the table top of Buckett by adding a lock arrangement between the table top sections, such as is taught by Pinch, to provide a means to help keep the sections in their folded condition during transporting, etc.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4-9, 15-17, and 28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 31 and 32 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 6, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of the claims over French patent 738,868 (as well as in view of secondary references; see previously Office action) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made under Buckett (UK patent application 2,298,782; as well as in view of secondary references; see above). Note: the limitation that the longitudinal support members are pivotally articulated to the undersurface of the table has been taken out of claim 1, allowing Buckett to now read upon the claim.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janet M. Wilkens whose telephone number is (571) 272-6869. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

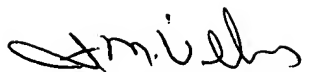
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Wilkins
May 22, 2006


JANET M. WILKENS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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